

DECEMBER FEE PAYMENT

[c28] 28.A method of configuring at least a portion of a medical balloon comprising the steps of:
providing a device as in claim 8 ;
disposing a medical balloon between the inflatable members;
at least partially inflating the medical balloon;
inflating the inflatable members so that the balloon contacting portions deform portions of the medical balloon inward;
at least partially deflating the medical balloon, the inwardly deformed portions of the medical balloon forming a plurality of balloon folds; and
removing the inflatable members from about the medical balloon.

[c29] 29.The method of claim 28 wherein each of the balloon folds extends along the entire length of the balloon.

[c30] 30.The method of claim 29 wherein each of the balloon folds extends spirally about the balloon.

[c31] 31.A method of configuring at least a portion of a medical balloon comprising the steps of:
providing a device as in claim 15 ;
disposing a medical balloon between the inflatable members;
at least partially inflating the medical balloon;
inflating the inflatable members so that the balloon contacting portions progressively deform portions of the medical balloon inward starting from the first end of the device;
at least partially deflating the medical balloon, the inwardly deformed portions of the medical balloon forming a plurality of balloon folds; and
removing the inflatable members from about the medical balloon.

[c32] 32.The method of claim 31 wherein each of the balloon folds extends along the entire length of the balloon.

[c33] 33.The method of claim 31 wherein each of the balloon folds extends spirally about the balloon.

[c34] 34.A method of configuring at least a portion of a medical balloon comprising the steps of:

a) providing a catheter comprising a medical balloon;
b) disposing a plurality of inflatable members about the medical balloon, each inflatable member having a balloon contacting portion;
c) at least partially inflating the balloon by supplying an inflation fluid thereto;
d) at least partially inflating the inflatable members so that the balloon contacting portions contact the medical balloon and apply an inward force to the medical balloon.

[c35] 35.The method of claim 34 further comprising the steps of:
e) removing at least some of the inflation fluid from the medical balloon; and
f) removing the inflatable members from about the medical balloon.

[c36] 36.The method of claim 34 wherein said inflation fluid is heated.

[c37] 37.The method of claim 34 wherein said inflatable member has a T_g and said inflation fluid is heated to a temperature below the T_g of said inflation fluid.

[c38] 38.The method of claim 35 wherein the inflatable members are symmetrically disposed about the medical balloon and upon inflation apply a sufficient radially inward force to the medical balloon to form a plurality of indentations in the medical balloon, the medical balloon upon removal of the inflation fluid therefrom having a plurality of folds.

[c39] 39.The method of claim 35 wherein the inflatable members are configured to apply a radially inward force to the medical balloon when they are inflated, the medical balloon upon removal of the inflation fluid therefrom having a plurality of folds.

[c40] 40.The method of claim 39 wherein each of the balloon folds extends along the entire length of the balloon.

[c41] 41.The method of claim 39 wherein each of the balloon folds extends spirally about the balloon.

[c42] 42.The method of claim 35 wherein each of the inflatable members has an inflation lumen which opens into the inflatable member at a first end of the inflatable member and
the balloon has an inflation lumen which opens into the balloon at an end of the balloon opposite the first end of the inflatable member.

[c43] 43.The method of claim 42 wherein the inward force is applied progressively along the length of the medical balloon.

[c44] 44.The method of claim 42 wherein the inward force is applied spirally about the medical balloon.

[c45] 45. The method of claim 35 wherein the inflatable members are inflated simultaneously.

[c46] 46.The method of claim 35 wherein the inflatable members are inflated in a predetermined sequence.

[c47] 47.The method of claim 35 wherein the plurality of inflatable members includes a first inflatable member located at a first end of the balloon, a second inflatable member located at the middle of the balloon and a third inflatable member located at a third end of the balloon, the first, second and third inflatable members axially displaced from one another along the length of the balloon.

[c48] 48.The method of claim 47 wherein during step e) the second inflatable member is inflated prior to the first and third inflatable members.

[c49] 49.The method of claim 47 wherein during step e) the first inflatable member is inflated prior to the second inflatable member which is inflated prior to the third inflatable member.

[c50] 50.A method of configuring at least a portion of a medical balloon comprising the steps of:
a) providing a catheter comprising a medical balloon;
b) at least partially inflating the medical balloon with an inflation fluid;
c) applying a plurality of discrete axially spaced inward forces to the medical balloon; and
d) deflating the medical balloon.

[c51] 51.The method of claim 50 wherein the plurality of discrete forces are applied by a plurality of axially spaced inflatable members.

[c52] 52.The method of claim 51 wherein the plurality of discrete forces are simultaneously applied with one another.